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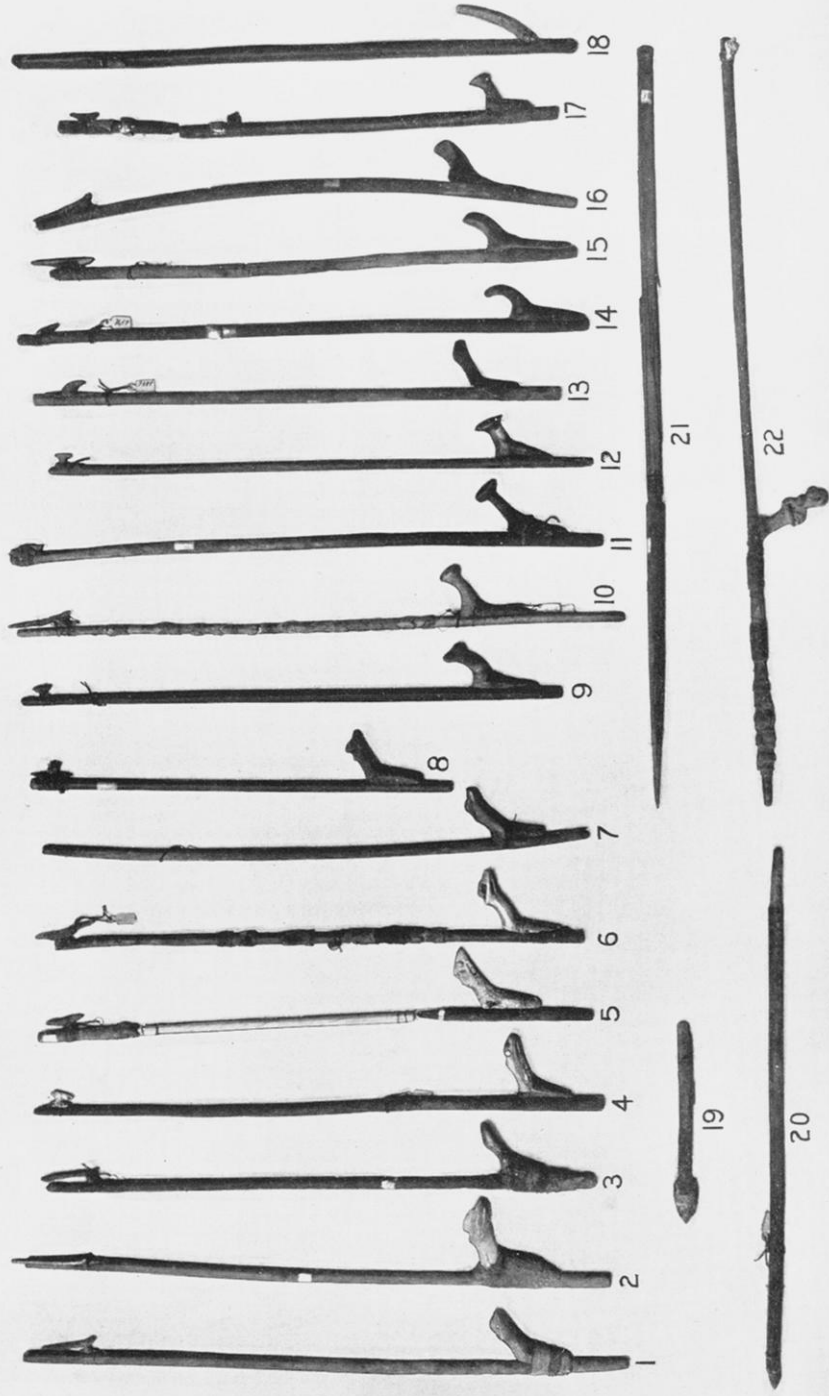
PERUVIAN THROWING-STICKS

By MAX UHLE

AMONG the recent acquisitions of the Museo de Historia Nacional in Lima is a group of ancient Peruvian throwing-sticks, of which I here present some photographs and a brief description.

Our positive knowledge of throwing-sticks from ancient Peru is of quite recent date. In *Kultur und Industrie* (1, pl. 25, fig. 30) was presented a throwing-stick from Guamo, near Riobamba in Ecuador, from the collection of W. Reiss. In 1888 the writer described and illustrated in *Archiv für Ethnographie* various stone hooks from Ecuador which were determined by him as being the rear hooks of ancient Ecuadorian throwing-sticks, an interpretation now fully confirmed. In a paper bearing the title "La Estolica en el Perú," published in the *Revista Historica* for 1908, the writer enumerated as many as nine Peruvian throwing-sticks, all but one of which were discovered by himself. Seven of these are in the museum of the University of California at San Francisco (four of which were unearthed in Trujillo, without the hooks; one came from Ancon, and two from Nieveria); one specimen is in the Gretzer collection in the Berlin Museum für Völkerkunde, and one in the Museo de Historia Nacional at Lima. The latter museum has since obtained five additional specimens from Nieveria, in the valley of Lima, one of which is here shown in plate xxxviii, and plate xxxix, 22. A series of eighteen throwing-sticks, most of them in an excellent state of preservation, were obtained from a single burial site on the lands of the hacienda Chaviña (about 15° 40' S. L.) on the southern coast of Peru. These are represented in the accompanying plates, figures 1 to 18.

From communications received from Mr W. Gretzer it appears that there is a second specimen in his collection at the Museum für Völkerkunde in Berlin, but it is not known whether it came from Pachacamac or from Ancon. One throwing-stick, obtained by



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Captain Berthon from the very ancient cemetery discovered by the writer at Nieveria, seems to have found its way to Paris. While in the year 1898 the only evidence of Peruvian throwing-sticks was that afforded by their representations on ancient pottery from the Chicama valley, there are now at our disposal thirty-four original specimens from this territory, in addition to a large number of hooks that formed parts of similar objects. The latter came from Ancon, Nieveria, Nazca, and Chaviña, and all are owned by the Museo Nacional of Peru.

In addition to these specimens there are presented in the same plate a number of parts of arrows from Chaviña (nos. 19 and 20), and an original arrow from Nieveria (no. 21). These were found with the throwing-sticks in the same cemeteries, and it may be safe to assume that they had been used in connection with the latter. The Museum possesses two arrows from Nieveria, several reed arrow-shafts of the same class and from similar arrows, dozens of wooden points provided with barbed hooks of many varieties. Some of the latter are decorated with carved faces: all of these came from Nieveria. The pieces with the barbed hooks closely resemble the general type of arrows used in South America east of the Andes.¹

The cemetery of Chaviña, south of Nazca and Lomas, belongs to a region a thorough exploration of which has only recently been begun by the writer. Its cultural position proved to be similar to that of Ica and Nazca. We find here represented the earliest type of the Ica-Nazca civilization. There are very fine tapestries showing patterns in the style of the Tiahuanaco gateway, the same as in Ica-Nazca and more numerous than in central Peru, a fact quite in harmony with the southern origin of the Tiahuanaco culture. Also the more recent cultures of the Ica-Nazca region frequently overlap those of the former. Finally, we likewise see here the culture of the Incas represented in fine and characteristic objects.

The eighteen throwing-sticks from Chaviña were all obtained in a burial ground situated near the sea and belonging to the Epigone period. Here, too, was procured a large variety of valuable fabrics

¹ Concerning the area of distribution of the throwing-stick and the relative ages of the Peruvian *estolicas*, see the writer's paper in *Revista Historica*, 1908, vol. II, p. 118.

showing designs in the style of Tiahuanaco, and a series of well prepared and richly ornamented mummy bales. A second burial ground, situated a mile above, in the same valley, shows the same characteristics as the preceding in every respect, save that not a single throwing-stick was found. A possible reason for this lack may be that the throwing-sticks were used for fishing, and thus are not likely to be found farther inland. In Arica fish were shot with arrows.¹ In 1896 the writer saw in Lomas, 18 miles north of Chaviña, a native armed with a harpoon shooting "corvinas" in the shallow shore water. These harpoons may still be found in some of the houses of this little port. Instead of the stone point of ancient times they are now tipped with points of iron. Whether these harpoons were formerly projected by means of throwing-sticks (as among the Eskimo) instead of being thrown by hand as at present, we are not able to say.

The throwing-sticks from Chaviña measure from 44 to 53 centimeters, similar to the four in the University of California, which came from the Chimu district (39.5 cm. to 59 cm.). Exceptions are shown in figure 8 (36 cm.), and figure 5, the middle part of which is wanting. Various kinds of wood were used: those shown in figures 4 and 12 are made of "chonta" (*Astrocaryum* sp.); figure 10 has a shaft made of a thin piece of bone which has not been determined zoologically.

The hooks at the butt end are inserted into small grooves.² They are of varying shapes; most are of copper, some are of bone, one of the tooth or tusk of a sea-mammal, and in one specimen (fig. 13) the hook is made of wood. In some instances may still be seen the original manner of fastening the hooks with cotton thread or with sinew.

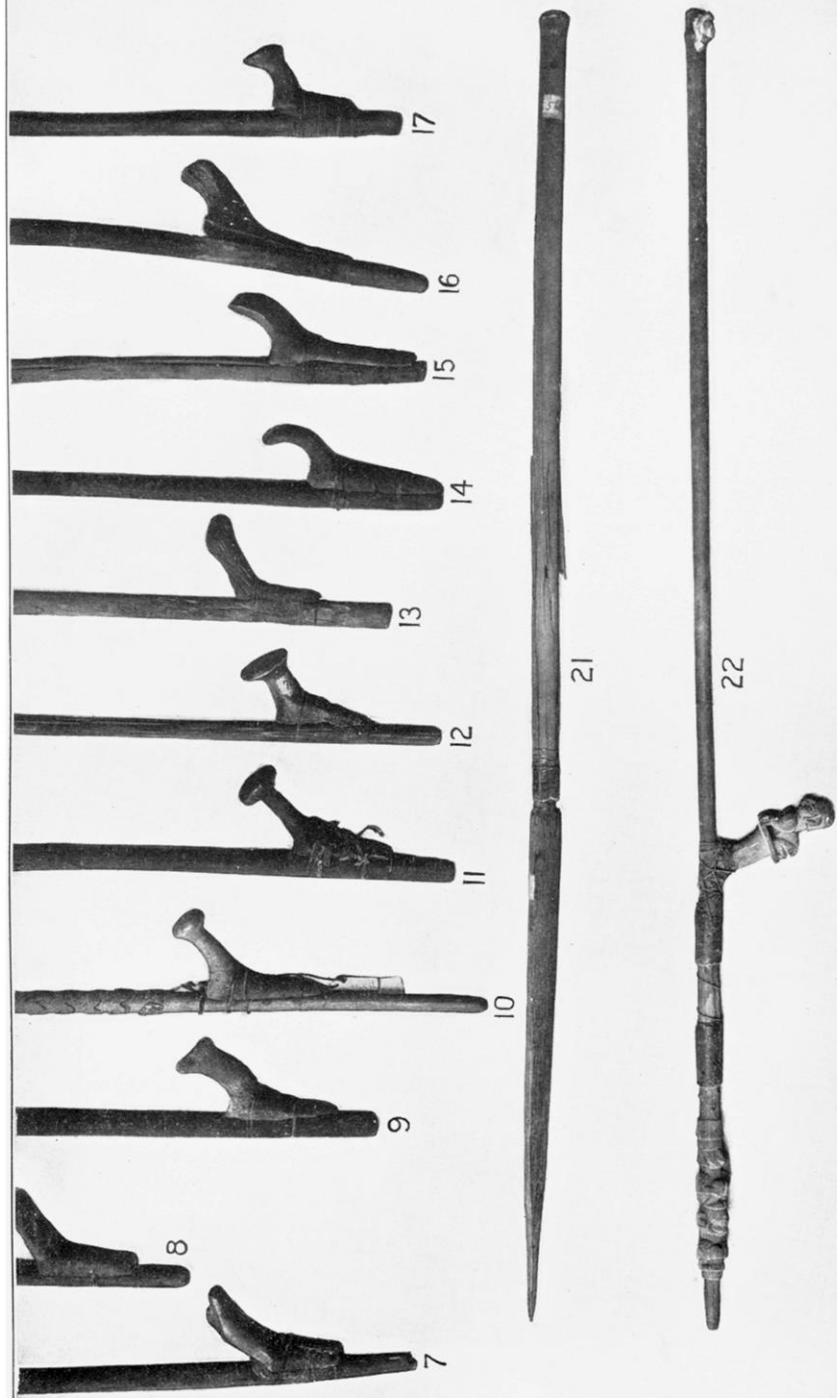
A hook with its prong turned backward is lashed to the forward end, which is usually a little thicker than the rest.³ This hook is generally made of tooth; in some cases it is of bone.

The form of the hook varies. In about half the specimens it is ornamented with a carved face and often was inlaid with bits of shell.

¹ Cf. *Kultur u. Industrie*, I, pl. 20, figs. 31-32, and pl. 25, fig. 22.

² See the article in *Revista Historica*, pl. III, fig. 2, from Trujillo-Moche.

³ Cf. *Kultur u. Industrie*, I, pl. 25, fig. 30; *Revista Historica*, loc. cit., pl. IV, fig. 1; also numerous scenes depicted upon pottery from Nazca, Chimbote, and Trujillo.



PERUVIAN THROWING-STICKS (DETAIL)

In figure 9 the hook is in the form of a bird's head, in other specimens it ends in a knob, and in rare cases it is quite plain. The manner of fastening the forward hook is similar to that of the hook at the butt end, and its axis is about the same as that of the latter.

Various specimens are decorated with rings of copper (figs. 5, 6, 10, and 17) or a sheath-like cap upon the butt end (fig. 5).

These throwing-sticks undoubtedly represent the continuation of the ancient throwing-sticks of Nazca, known principally through pictures upon pottery. A bone hook of a throwing-stick from an ancient cemetery at Nazca is in the collection of the Museo Nacional; its shape and ornamentation are identical with those of the specimens shown in figures 1-8. The throwing-sticks from Moche in the museum of the University of California are evidently descended from the same type. As the original culture of Trujillo was closely related to that of Nazca, and as the pictures of throwing-sticks appearing upon the Trujillo pottery of that period show a form identical with those of Nazca, it can safely be assumed that the throwing-sticks of a more recent period are derived from this early type. The measurements also suggest a common derivation.

The two foreshafts from Chaviña (figs. 19 and 20) are 12.5 cm. and 41 cm. long (without the peg at the rear end), and are made of wood (having a peg at the end to be inserted into the shaft) with heads of obsidian lashed in place with sinew.

A splendid example of an *estolica* from Nieveria is presented in figure 22 of our illustrations. Its length is 66.5 cm. The forward ornamental piece is neatly joined. The hook at the butt end, in the shape of a bird's head, is made of a shell-like substance; the forward hook shows a carved human figure, in a squatting posture, upon a square piece. The forward piece is in the form of two human figures in a squatting position and provided with tails. The figures are placed one above the other, as on the totem poles of the northwest coast of North America.

The arrow shown in figure 21 is 66 cm. long and has a three-cornered point, 27 cm. in length, without barbs, made of chonta wood. The butt-end is cut off straight. It is surprising to note the small size of the arrows that were projected from the throwing-sticks.